

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06332 182048Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 014939

R 181847Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1260

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BL VE

SUBJ: GOB PURCHASES OF AIRCRAFT FROM VENEZUELA

1. PRESIDENT BANZER TOLD ME OCTOBER 17 THAT VENEZUELA SOLD 12 F-86S, 12 TO 14 B-25S, AND SEVEN YEARS OF SPARE PARTS TO BOLIVIA FOR \$200,000 PAYABLE OVER 15 YEARS. HE SAID THAT THE ARRANGMENT WAS VIRTUALLY A GIFT WHICH HE COULD NOT REFUSE. HE SAID IT ALSO FIT IN WITH THE WISHES OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO HAVE MORE UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT, A DESIRE, HE SAID, WHICH WAS SHARED BY MOST PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT BOLIVIA COULD NOT AFFORD TO PURCHASE T-37S FROM THE U.S. BECAUSE AT \$850,000 A COPY, THEY WERE BEYOND THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WANTED US TO KNOW THESE FACTS SO THAT WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOB WAS NOT EXPENDING SCARE RESOURCES FOR AIRCRAFT AT A TIME WHEN THE NATION WAS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN SUPPLYING THE POPULATION WITH BASIC FOODSTUFFS.

STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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